

In the Claims:

All of the currently pending claims are listed below including any amendments proposed herein. Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-22 and 40-45 without prejudice.

1-86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously presented) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a computer-implemented method for enabling a carrier representative to manage units of carrier capacity associated with a carrier, each unit of capacity corresponding to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier, the method comprising:

presenting first carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to post selected ones of the units of capacity for viewing by shipper representatives, the first carrier interfaces being operable to receive a plurality of capacity parameters for each selected unit of capacity and facilitate generation of a listing for each selected unit of capacity;

presenting second carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to identify shipper loads, the second carrier interfaces being operable to initiate a search process according to at least one criterion specified by the carrier representative;

presenting third carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to select first ones of the units of capacity, assign a group identifier to the first units of capacity thereby relating the associated equipment identifiers, and generate a first bid for a first shipper load using the group identifier;

presenting fourth carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to generate a plurality of second bids corresponding to a plurality of second shipper loads, each of

the second bids corresponding to a second one of the units of capacity, such that where one of the second bids is accepted, all others of the second bids become unavailable; and

presenting fifth carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to generate a third bid for a third shipper load designating a currently unavailable one of the units of capacity, the third bid being identified as a future bid, such that when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, the third bid is updated to a current bid.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the first carrier interfaces are further operable to facilitate limiting visibility of the units carrier capacities according to shipper identification information input by the carrier representative.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the fourth carrier interfaces further include information regarding a number of the second shipper loads against which the second unit of capacity is currently bid.

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the second carrier interfaces are operable to enable the carrier representative to specify a period of time during which the search process operates without user intervention.

91. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90 further comprising presenting a notification to the carrier representative when the search process identifies one of the shipper loads.

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91 wherein the notification comprises any of an e-mail, a pager signal, and a message to be displayed using an interface of the system.

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92 wherein the e-mail includes a hyperlink corresponding to the identified shipper load.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the second carrier interfaces are operable to enable the carrier representative to manually activate the search process.

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the second carrier interfaces are operable to enable the carrier representative to manually terminate the search process

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the second carrier interfaces are further operable to enable the carrier representative to specify bidding rules according to which automatic bid for the shipper loads identified by the search process may be generated.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the equipment identifiers correspond to any of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 further comprising presenting sixth interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to generate additional bids for other shipper loads designating the currently unavailable unit of capacity, each of the additional bids being identified as additional future bids, such that when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, the additional future bids are updated to additional current bids.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the at least one criterion comprises any of a pickup location, a delivery location, a pickup date, a delivery date, an equipment type, and a freight service.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 further comprising presenting a notification to the carrier representative upon occurrence of a system event, the notification comprising any of an e-mail, a pager signal, and a message to be displayed using an interface of the system.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87 further comprising presenting sixth carrier interfaces including bid histories corresponding to any of the plurality of bids in the system associated with the carrier.

102. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising at least one computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein which are operable to cause at least one computing device to perform the method of claim 87.

103. (Previously presented) A system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads, comprising at least one computing device deployed in a network for enabling a carrier representative to manage units of carrier capacity associated with a carrier, each unit of capacity corresponding to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier, the at least one computing device being configured to:

present first carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to post selected ones of the units of capacity for viewing by shipper representatives, the first carrier interfaces being operable to receive a plurality of capacity parameters for each selected unit of capacity and facilitate generation of a listing for each selected unit of capacity;

present second carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to identify shipper loads, the second carrier interfaces being operable to initiate a search process according to at least one criterion specified by the carrier representative;

present third carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to select first ones of the units of capacity, assign a group identifier to the first units of capacity thereby relating the associated equipment identifiers, and generate a first bid for a first shipper load using the group identifier;

present fourth carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to generate a plurality of second bids corresponding to a plurality of second shipper loads, each of the second bids corresponding to a second one of the units of capacity, such that where one of the second bids is accepted, all others of the second bids become unavailable; and

present fifth carrier interfaces operable to enable the carrier representative to generate a third bid for a third shipper load designating a currently unavailable one of the units of capacity, the third bid being identified as a future bid, such that when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, the third bid is updated to a current bid.